100 Black Oak Drive Asheville, North Carolina 28804

January 24, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft US Department of Justice 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am taking some time to write to you because I am concerned about the settlement that was reached by the Justice Department and Microsoft. I am concerned that anti-Microsoft forces may try to disrupt the settlement process and apply pressure to have this case brought back to trial.

This case has gone on for more than three years now, and the Justice Department and Microsoft have spent an excessive amount of time and money on this court conflict. The settlement is more than fair. In fact Microsoft has agreed to give out more information to competitors in this settlement than has ever been disclosed by a technology firm before.

Included in this settlement are provisions that will open up Microsoft's internal interfaces to its competitors. By making this information available, competitors will be able to create better software. On the whole this settlement is extremely generous to Microsoft's competitors. It should be implemented as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Lucille James